

The Relief of Bilbao.

To-day's dispatch confirms the truth of the long-expected report, published in the Saturday Star, stating that the Spanish government forces had succeeded in raising the siege of Bilbao and had entered that city, and that the Carlist besiegers were retreating in disorder. This is an important event, and will probably lead to an early termination of the Carlist insurrection in Spain. Bilbao, or Bilboa, as it is written both ways, is the principal port of northern Spain, and the capital of the Basque province of Biscay. The town is situated on the Nervion, about nine miles from its entrance into the sea at Portugalete; it is forty-five miles west of San Sebastian, and twenty-eight miles north of Vittoria, and is in latitude 43° 14' north and longitude 2° 56' west. The town is well located, being enclosed by lofty mountains. It is well built, and consists of an old and a new town, which are connected by bridges. There are numerous convents and monasteries, a cathedral, a large hospital, an arsenal, and several abattoirs, which are among the best in Spain. The population is about 19,000. There are numerous manufacturing and several shipyards, and it is the chief seaport of the north of Spain, although only half-craft can make their way up to it, the latter being forced by the Carlists to land their cargoes at Olaveaga, two miles below. There is a registered shipping at the port of from 500 to 600 vessels, and its fisheries are also important. The city has had, since 1863, direct railway connection with Madrid and also with France. There has been direct steam communication with other Spanish ports, and with France, England, and the Netherlands. During the stormy period of the Napoleonic wars it was occupied by the French, and it was the scene of frequent contests during the Carlist wars of the first half of this century, the famous Carlist General Zumalacarraga having assaulted it in vain, and received his death wound in its vicinity on the 10th of June, 1835. During the progress of the Carlist insurrection the surrounding country has been nearly all the time overrun by the Carlists, and Bilbao has from the start been one of their principal objective points. On the 21 of January of the present year, General Castelar was defeated in the Cortes, whereupon the latter was dispersed by an armed force, and a provisional government was established with Marshal Serrano at head. The new regime was soon firmly entrenched by the capitulation of the Carlist garrisons, which had held the government forces at bay at Cartagena so long. On the morning of the 13th of January the rebellious city capitulated, and the Madrid government was thenceforth left at liberty to devote all its energies to the suppression of the Carlist insurrection. By this time the Carlists had completely invested Bilbao and commenced to bombard the city, and a portion of the army which had captured Cartagena was marched to the relief of the garrison. Fighting for possession of the city has been going on with varying success ever since, and as the Carlists made it their objective point their defeat may be said to practically end the insurrection, for the present at least.

Carlist.

The Baltimore American thinks The Star will not deny that the investigation has developed a good deal of fraud; that there were real estate pools, paying rings, a sewer, lobby agents, etc., and asks us, "as a matter of fact, alistic candor," if it is to be believed that Governor Shepherd, "a man of great ability, shrewd, energetic, far-seeing," has been "convinced" of all this connection with fraud that pushed itself into his hands, and that he has answered that we do believe just this, and because we think we know Mr. Shepherd's inner motives. We believe that his purpose throughout his official career has been entirely above any mere money-grabbing party, those who know him the most intimately believe in him the most thoroughly, and those who do not know him nearly appreciate his real and absorbing ambition, has been to connect his name honorably with the redemption of his native city from mud and squalor. As regards the evidence to which the American refers, its own correspondent General Boynton, who is certainly no prejudiced witness in favor of the District government, has stated in that paper, his frank conviction that Governor Shepherd told the straight-forward truth in his testimony concerning the matter. His testimony and his correspondence with contractors and others, all serve to show that he not only was not in collusion with ring men and lobbyists, but that he was sharply bringing to account all who had undertaken to work, and failed to fulfill their contracts properly. That lobbyists, jobbers, and confidence men, "a cat of that kind," should try to play their trade in the hands of a man of Governor Shepherd's caliber, or anybody else, is a thing which the District would, or anybody else, is a thing which is not surprising. Washington city has through out its history been infested by this class of strikers. Not a contract is given out by any branch of government that these vultures are not on hand in swarms; but it would be very unjust to hold the President or Cabinet officers responsible for their presence or their plundering schemes. And that is why Governor Shepherd generally said to these contractors by the idea that they have been, just as high quarters, when they have none, just as Satan professed to be able to convey a large amount of real estate when he did not own a foot of it, and just as a New York operator, prior to Black Friday, sought on the ground of a connection with the President's family to give assurances that he could control the President's financial policy, a mistake that cost those who took stock in it to satisfy the Wall Street. We are quite willing with the American to see whether "he shall be proved the pure, high minded, honorable gentleman that his District admirers pretend he is."

George Alfred vs. the Rats.

The rat portion of Newspaper Row has been much demoralized by George Alfred Townsend's square stand-up and winning fight for the District of Columbia. George never carried much for us until we got plenty of enemies, then he took everybody's points, like Jack Falstaff, and between fencing and laughing has got much more out of the investigation than anybody. The other day George told Mr. Charles Huntley entering the house of Mr. Hutchinson, on K street, and suspected him to be A. K. Kirtland. He associated him with Kirtland by the fact that both used to have a span of horses at the Arlington. He gave information, and Mr. Christy definitely ascertained that the person was Mr. Huntley, but the rat had the question asked in order to get it into the testimony, and then he telegraphed it everywhere to give a suspicion that Townsend was acquainted with Kirtland. The malicious Gibson swore by the wire that Townsend had spirited Kirtland out of town. Now, here is Kirtland's testimony last Saturday: "Did you not see George Alfred Townsend in this city? I do not know him; I might have seen him. Were you not on the same street with him on May 1st? I might have been on the same street. I am not acquainted with him. I do not know him even by sight. I don't see him under an assumed name. I never met the gentleman to my knowledge. Townsend particularly requests Mr. Vance, of the Chicago Tribune, to stick to the story which he sent off to that paper. He prefers that Vance shall be understood right there where Gath has victoriously conducted a dozen skirmishes to victory with such whiffles."

Dann Makes Another Mistake.

The New York Times has been making considerable use of the fact that the black manufacturing fabrications in the way of an elaborate investigation of the Board of Public Works sought to spirit the witness Kirtland from Washington. Says the Sun, per its reliable correspondent Gibson: "It was impossible to get him away from the railroad, and difficult and expensive to send him by private conveyance. There is a line of

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